

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05925 270550Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 547
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5925

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND COMIPAC

FOLLOWING TEL SENT BANGKOK FROM UDORN 24 FEB REPEATED FYI:

QTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0042

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS TH CB
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN THAI INSURGENT/KHMER MILITARY
ACTIVITY ALONG NORTHEAST BORDER WITH CAMBODIA

1. DURING THREE DAY TRIP COVERING ALL EIGHT DISTRICTS
OF FOUR NORTHEAST PROVINCES THAT BORDER ON CAMBODIA FEBRUARY
21, CONSUL RECEIVED NUMEROUS
REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CPT INSURGENT AND
KHMER MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BORDER AREAS DURING PAST
FOUR MONTHS.

2. BASED ON TALKS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, STEPPED UP
INSURGENT/KHMER MILITARY OPERATIONS SEEM MOST
PREVALENT IN LAHAN SAI DISTRICT, BURIRAM PROVINCE;
KAP CHEUN SUB-DISTRICT, SURIN PROVINCE; KHUN HAN AND
KANTHARALAK DISTRICTS; SISAKET PROVINCE; AND NAM
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05925 270550Z

YEUN DISTRICT, UBON PROVINCE.

3. MOST OF CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND SECURITY REPRESENTATIVES
INTERVIEWED NOTED THAT INSURGENTS' CURRENT MILITARY
CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN MARKED BY SHIFT IN USUAL TACTICS
FROM TARGETTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LOCAL RTG
SECURITY FORCES TO TARGETTING VILLAGE POPULATIONS.

ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF ABDUCTIONS OF VILLAGERS. TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH ABDUCTIONS DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AS REPORTED BY AUTHORITIES IN EIGHT DISTRICTS VISITED, IS APPROXIMATELY 580.

4. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SHIFT IN TACTICS HAS BEEN INSURGENT BURNING OF VILLAGERS' HOMES, A LARGE VILLAGE SCHOOL, AND CONFISCATION OF VILLAGERS' PERSONAL PROPERTY, THIS HAS PRODUCED TOTAL OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DISPLACED PERSONS IN LAHAN SAI DISTRICT AND KAP CHEUN SUB-DISTRICT WHO ARE AFRAID TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLATES.

5. WHILE THERE ARE DIVERGENT OPINIONS REGARDING PRIMARY ORIGIN OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY ALONG BORDER, MAJORITY VIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSULTED IS THAT THAI COMMUNIST INSURGENTS ARE SPEARHEADING MOST OF ACTIVITY SUPPORTED BY KHMER COMMUNIST ALLIES.

6. PRIMARY RTG RESPONSE TO EXPANDED INSURGENT MILITARY OPERATIONS HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH WHAT APPEARS TO BE BATTALION-SIZED TASK FORCE IN KAPCHEUN SUB-DISTRICT AND STRENGTHENING OF PREVIOUSLY FORMED TASK FORCE IN LAHAN SAI DISTRICT. POLICE CHIEF IN LATTER DISTRICT CITED RECENT RTA SECOND ARMY FORWARD INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS THAT ALLEGEDLY IDENTIFIES LAHAN SAI/TA PHRAYA
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 05925 270550Z

(PRACHINBURI PROVINCE) AREAS AS MOST ACTIVE INSURGENT AREA IN NORTHEAST AND PERHAPS IN COUNTRY.

7. FULL DETAILS OF INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING BORDER TOUR WILL BE PROVIDED IN TRIP REPORT UNDER PREPARATION.
FINNEY UNQTE
WHITEHOUSE

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